

# AWAKE, MY TONGUE, THY TRIBUTE BRING Worksheet

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## Verse 1

Awake, my tongue, thy tribute bring  
To Him Who gave Thee power to sing;  
Praise Him Who is all praise above,  
The source of wisdom and of love.

## Verse 2

How vast is His knowledge, how profound!  
A deep where all our thoughts are drowned;  
The stars He numbers, and their names  
He gives to all those heavenly flames.

## Verse 3

Through each bright world above, behold  
Ten thousand thousand charms unfold;  
Earth, air, and mighty seas combine  
To speak His wisdom all divine.

## Verse 4

But in redemption, O what grace!  
Its wonders, O what thought can trace!  
Here, wisdom shines forever bright;  
Praise Him, my soul, with sweet delight.

## Vocabulary

In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: tribute

Verse 2: vast, profound

Verse 3: behold, charms, divine

Verse 4: redemption

**Word Pictures** Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: Awake my tongue

Verse 2: stars He numbers, heavenly flames

Verse 3: Ten thousand thousand charms

Verse 4: wisdom shines forever bright

## **Mechanics** Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker?

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?

Does the poem have a setting?

Is the poem about a particular event? Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker?

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

## **Comprehension Questions** Verbally discuss

### *Verse 1*

What is the author requesting in the first line?

Who gave the author the ability to sing?

What is the Source for wisdom and love?

### *Verse 2*

Explain: “How vast is His knowledge, how profound!”

How can a thought be drowned? What does this mean?

Who numbers the stars and gives them names?

### *Verse 3*

What is being referred to in the first line of this verse?

Is the author being literal with “Ten thousand thousand charms”? Are there really just that amount of charms? Explain.

Why would the combination of the earth, air, and seas speak about wisdom? How can this be?

### *Verse 4*

Explain and discuss: “But in redemption, O what grace!”

What is the author trying to express in the second line?

How can wisdom shine?

According to the author, what gives “sweet delight”?

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the five verses and the refrain.

How does the Bible define love? For Scripture verses help, check out this internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

Compare/contrast this poem to Exodus 4:11, “And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?”

## **The Author/Poet**

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author’s name for this poem or lyric is John Needham (?-circa 1786). His father, John Neednam, was a Baptist minister of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England. John Needham, the author of this poem was a co-pastor with John Beddome in 1750.

## Geography

Locate Hertfordshire, England on a globe, map and atlas.

*Challenge* Locate Hitchin (England) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast England's weather with your own for one week.

Make an English meal for your family.

## Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be four different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event this poem reported.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., angels, heads of nations either current or past, the serpent, Mary, sinners, repentant sinner, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

7) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the before and after impact of *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*.

8) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about John Needham and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.